

Toronto: A Great Place To Tell The Truth



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Note: Please see my Twitter account for regular updates on the election campaign.

<http://twitter.com/MayorVij>



This section covers some recent media coverage of the election so far. What's clear is the main candidates for Mayor of Toronto are focused on talking points and fantasies of big build projects with guaranteed cost-overruns and kick-backs, at least based on the last 100 years of this stuff. Is this what the people want?

It's the Year 2010 and we have serious issues to deal with and ways how on this website, so let's look at why the people of Toronto and media have found this municipal election campaign boring so far. Since we have the option of asking for more before giving any of these candidates the job, perhaps this will help us.

CP24 Election Update: Sept. 16

Last night's debate at the University of Toronto didn't break any new ground. The candidates were questioned by professors and graduate students. The questions all had three or four parts, but the candidates only got ninety seconds to respond. It's not really a problem, because usually the question was ignored and the candidates stuck to their lines. I wonder if those same professors allow their students the same latitude in seminars. ...

** If they ignore questions in person, they'll probably ignore us after they're elected too -- Vij **

Ford said they'd all done so many of these debates that they could stand in for each other.

** If they can trade places, that means they're all saying basically the same thing, right? -- Vij **

http://www.cp24.com/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100914/100916_election_update/20100916/?hub=CP24Business

CP24 Election Update: Sept. 17

Rocco Rossi set the agenda with a series of transportation announcements. His tunnel idea was taken so seriously that now Rossi makes sure to tell anyone who cares that it was only "an idea that he thinks should be studied," not a promise.

* If candidates can't defend what they believe, should we really take them seriously? -- Vij *

Rob Ford and Joe Pantalone attended the many debates but made no significant announcements and both seem happy to repeat their lines.

* If candidates can't impress us with their ideas during the debates, can they do it after? * -- Vij *

So, going into the weekend, there was no campaign "game changer." That leaves me where I was at the start of the week, thinking that all five candidates are waiting for a poll, maybe even a couple of polls, to see if there has been a significant shift in the numbers.

* If candidates wait for polls to tell them what to say, can we trust them to be honest? -- Vij *

Every year since 2001, The Toronto Community Foundation releases a report on the state of the city called "Vital Signs." Last year the report found that "Toronto is becoming increasingly unequal, and if current trends persist, middle income neighbourhoods will continue to disappear."

* If candidates won't address these issues now, will they deal with them if elected? -- Vij *

He says Toronto is going through "the growing pains of becoming a part of the global village." Bhardwaj, like so many Torontonians, is looking to the candidates for mayor to put forward realistic policies -- a vision -- that deals with the challenges of integrating Toronto's diverse communities.

* If candidates won't challenge the impact of "globalization", will Toronto fall victim to it? -- Vij *

http://www.cp24.com/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100917/100917_election_update/20100917/?hub=CP24Business

Toronto Star Letter: Candidates' transit ideas defy reality

It was not always like this. Thirty years ago, Toronto had a world-renowned, state-of-the-art transit system, few traffic jams and very little highway construction. After 30 years of building almost no subways or light rail but putting in new highways, the city is inching toward gridlock. Ford and Rossi are promising more of the same.

* If candidates just talk about TTC, what else are they avoiding discussing for you and me? -- Vij *

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters/article/862432--candidates-transit-ideas-defy-reality>

Toronto Star: Make contractors pay for road delays, Smitherman says

The former deputy premier said he would have the city build into construction contracts a clause that would force contractors to pay a financial penalty if they cause a delay in road projects. Instead of the penalty flowing to the city, the money would go to nearby businesses hurt by delays, like the many on Roncesvalles hurt while the popular shopping street has been torn up, he said.

* It sounds good, but calculating the costs and deciding who gets money will be tough -- Vij *

Smitherman also promised:

- Executives in transportation, planning, works, Toronto Hydro and TTC will be given 100 days to present a plan to city council to co-ordinate road cuts. Smitherman said failure to do so would cut their pay or even see them "replaced."

* He was called the "pink pitbull" for his fascist personality, is this what the City will see? -- Vij *

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/torontomayoralrace/article/861135--make-contractors-pay-for-road-delays-smitherman-says>

Toronto Star: Candidates need to offer vision

"I want a true leader, not a manager. Managers manage what has already been created," said Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment CEO Richard Peddie at a Canadian Club luncheon at the Royal York hotel. "Leaders create something new."

That means articulating "a view of something possible, something seen in a dream."

* *After months of campaigning, if a top business leader is complaining, shouldn't we be? -- Vij **

"I'm hearing a lot of tactics, but where do they want to take this city? Where is something that rallies the citizens to get behind it, and ultimately get things passed at city council?" Peddie told reporters later Wednesday.

"We're hearing about today it's a tax freeze and tomorrow it's a cut here and cut there. Step back and show me the big picture."

* *Please see this website for the big picture, even the CEO of Maple Leaf Sports says so. -- Vij **

George Smitherman said he would be happy to listen to Peddie when one of his teams makes the playoffs. Rocco Rossi added: "When we win the Stanley Cup, we'll listen to him."

* *If top candidates won't listen to the Maple Leafs CEO, will they listen to the rest of us? -- Vij **

While he is proud of Toronto, as a frequent traveller overseas, Peddie says, "as I observe the political and administrative goings-on of the city, I wish for much more for Toronto . . . much more."

* *When a CEO knows what's going on and isn't happy with candidates, should we be? -- Vij **

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/torontomayoralrace/article/861468--candidates-need-to-offer-vision>



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